

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Korea

DATE DISTR. 20 APR 50

SUBJECT Radio and Telephone Facilities in
North Korea

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE 25X1A

ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

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1. North Korean radio stations include the following:

- a. Pyongyang -- range of 30 kilometers.
- b. Chongjin (129-49, 41-46) -- 15 kilometer range, local broadcasts only.
- c. Hamhung (127-32, 39-54) -- 15 kilometer range, local broadcasts only.
- d. Wonsan (127-26, 39-10) -- 15 kilometer range, equipped with jamming devices; Seoul broadcasts cannot be heard in this station's range.
- e. Chorwon (127-12, 38-14).
- f. Songjin (129-12, 40-40).
- g. Sinuiju (124-24, 40-06).
- h. Haeju (125-42, 38-02).

Document No.	2
No Change in Class.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Declassified	
Class. Changed To:	YS S C
Auth:	HR 70-2
Date:	8 June 78

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2. At the end of the war, the Soviet army removed many radio receivers from North Korea and Manchuria, and listening to the radio was then strictly prohibited. After the establishment of propaganda and regular administrative organizations, radio reception was again allowed and receivers were brought into North Korea by repatriates returning from Manchuria. Listening was supposed to be limited to approved broadcasts, however. Although there were strict penalties for listening to South Korean or American stations, many persons secretly received foreign programs.
3. Telephone service in North Korea is limited in most cities and rural districts because of unrepaired damage done to installations in the fighting just before the surrender, lack of spare parts for repairs, and general business depression. In Chongjin, for example, only government offices are equipped with telephones; private telephones are almost non-existent. There and in other cities, many

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people engaged in commerce who were formerly the main telephone subscribers have sold their telephones. The demand for such equipment was so slight that the telephones were sold at low prices and many were exported to South Korea. Spare parts are hard to obtain, although batteries of inferior quality are manufactured in Pyongyang. Batteries and other parts are imported from Japan, Hong Kong and South Korea.

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